

February 8, 2011

1100/GES/REGISTRATION UNIT
2011 FEB -9 AM 11:00

Ms. Heather Hunt
U.S. Department of Justice
FARA Registration Unit
600 E Street, NW
Bicentennial Building Room 1301
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Registration number 5874

Delivery by hand

Dear Ms. Hunt:

Please find enclosed two copies of the following document disseminated by email by Catherine Goode of Gephardt Group Government Affairs, LLC on behalf of our client, the Embassy of El Salvador in the United States of America (and labeled with the disclaimer as required by the Foreign Agent Registration Act). Also attached in duplicate form is the list of recipients.

- "Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit" (Monday, February 7, 2011)
- "Funes confirms Obama's visit for March 22 and 23" (Tuesday, February 8, 2011)

Gephardt Group Government Affairs is registered under the Foreign Agent Registration Act with the Department of Justice to represent the Embassy of El Salvador.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at 202-403-2037 or catherinegoode@gephardtgroup.com.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Catherine Goode
Vice President

Subject:

FW: Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

From: Catherine Goode

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 4:19 PM

To: Catherine Goode

Subject: Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

All, below is a transcript provided by the Embassy of El Salvador of Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez's briefing on the upcoming visit by President Obama this March 2011.

If I can provide additional questions, I can be reached at 202-812-1899 or catherinegoode@gephardtgroup.com

Thanks,
Catherine

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PRESS CONFERENCE – MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS HUGO MARTINEZ

February 4, 2011

Welcome and introduction by Minister Counselor, Hector Silva Avalos.
HM: Good morning, we are fulfilling an intense agenda here in Washington, D.C. that started yesterday and as well said by Mr. Silva we have developed a complementary agenda with the First Lady in two directions. One in preparation of the forthcoming visit of President Obama to El Salvador and second with a strategic project of President Funes called "Ciudad Mujer". Yesterday, we attended the Prayer Breakfast to which we had been invited by the organizers and later we had meetings including meetings with OAS, Secretario General Adjunto, as a follow-up and preparation of 41 meeting of OAS to be held in June in El Salvador. Also, together with the First Lady we held a meeting with the OAS Permanent Council President to intensify our activities to support persons with disabilities since the First Lady and Secretary of Social Inclusion also presides the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against persons with disabilities. Today, the First Lady is attending meetings at the Department of State where she will meet with Ambassador Lou Cabeza DeBacca, from the Monitoring Office to Combat Persons' Trafficking and later she will meet with Maria Ottero, Subsecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs and later with Judith Heumann, Advisor on International Law for Persons with Disabilities. Yesterday she also had meetings at IADB to present the project "Ciudad Mujer" which she has been promoting as part of the Secretariat for Social Inclusion that on Tuesday will inaugurate the first building and sede of "Ciudad Mujer". The other fundamental reason of the visit is that we are here to prepare the visit announced by President Obama to El Salvador. This would be the second meeting of President Obama with President Funes because you might remember that on March 8 last year we were here to have a meeting between President Funes and President Obama. And during this year we have held several meetings with officials of the administration and government El Salvador officials and basically to make progress on the issues that were outlined in the meeting held by both Presidents on March 8th. This second visit will wrap up and seal the strategic alliance between both our countries. you know, some of these issues 1st. growth and development of a social plan to gradually decrease poverty index and giving our citizens to take control of their own development. A second point which is main in the agenda and will also be in El Salvador is security regional and hemisphere we have been working all year at C.A. level and bilateral ES/USA as well as /US. We held a meeting last year inter sectoral Ministers of Defense, Security, Attorney Generals, Police Directors, where agreed on a short list of C.A. security actions that are already being implemented. And one of them was to form a high level work group for the exchange of information. This Work Group has met already for the first time as well as the Secretary

discussions on this issue with the Obama Administration placing first President Funes' suggestion of investing in the places of origin of the immigration population such as education, employment, development to motivate our citizens to remain there and be part of this development.

There is a large volume of Salvadorans here that need a legal immigration status and we commend President Obama's brave initiative to continue with this such as he mentioned in the State of the Union Address. We know it is a somewhat complicated issue at this time. Also pushing the possibility that our citizens with TPS have a way out of their situation through the DREAM ACT or any other sections of the law that might give them the possibility of a permanent residence status but seeing that a comprehensive immigration reform would be the best option.

4th point proposed in the agenda is concerning efforts to face the climate change, among which there are the clean energy options. We are very fortunate in El Salvador to have enough resources to change to solar energy, geothermic energy and consolidate hydroelectric energy and bet on the wind energy in order to diminish dependancy on fossil energy but also to protect the environment.

5th point on the agenda is trade between ES and USA we have a free trade agreement and the commission will meet soon in ES to evaluate and reach a better agreement as well as to increase trade between both countries.

These are the five agenda points that we are preparing for the visit of President Obama: fight against poverty, security, immigration, climate change effects, and trade. Possible date of the visit ranges from 19 to 25th March. We cannot be precise right now. Initial proposal is that this be a bilateral visit between both Presidents. In a few minutes I will meet with Department of State Officials such as Mr. Arturo Valenzuela and Reynoso also with White House Officials National Security Advisor Dan Restrepo to tune up additional details on this historic visit that will take place one year after the first meeting of President Funes and President Obama and that is within the context of El Salvador's political situation which is a very stable one democratic transition within the government and at this time President Funes is leading the country to national unity summoning all political and society sectors. We think this is a very important aspect that this Administration has noticed and is the main reason why President Obama is visiting El Salvador.

QUESTIONS:

AFP: If President Funes will propose that the other Presidents attend the meeting. And also what would El Salvador request on the issue of security taking into account that this Administration has already said there are no more possibilities of additional financing for C.A. on this because of their budget limitations.

H.Martinez: As said before, this is a bilateral meeting but if at some point there is the possibility of a regional meeting we are not closed to this. Nonetheless, President Funes will give a regional focus on all the issues in the agenda that will be discussed, such as security, for example, because the criminals do not respect a frontier that is why we have to adopt regional measures to combat. That is the reason why we proposed and was approved to include the issue of Citizen Security in the forthcoming OAS General Assembly which we will host in June because it is not only an issue for Central America but for the entire Hemisphere.

On your second point, we see this cooperation as complementary to the country and regional plans. I remember very well that during the UN meeting in September last year President Obama said that they would contribute with those countries that were making their own efforts to combat crime and one of the first ones he mentioned was El Salvador. So we see cooperation within this context: we are making our own efforts, bet on our own resources and seek complementary aid not only from USA but from other strategic allies of El Salvador and the region. We are organizing with the U.S. and C.A. countries for next June the International Donors Conference for the C.A. Security Plan that we are planning to be held immediately after OAS Gen. Assembly to commit resources not only financial but technological and expertise that other countries have on security measures. For example, we are progressing in the technology field with the installation of the wiretapping center has technology cooperation from the U.S. as well as a sea and air space monitoring base to intercept drug trafficking activities in the Pacific coast. This does not necessarily mean that our country contribute financially but makes available the resources that we have. We see cooperation in this context and in these times of crisis resources are scarce that is why we are organizing this International Donors Conference to obtain not only financial support from the U.S. but as well from other important allies.

VOA: First, when do you think you will have a firm date for this meeting? And second concerning immigration. As you mentioned many of Salvadoran nationals here are under TPS protection but many of them are illegally here. What would your message be to those Salvadoran nationals living here and for their relatives in El Salvador that want a more stable status for them and are disappointed with the Obama Administration because the immigration reform has not come through?

H.Martinez: First, concerning the date, it is very probable that today we will be given a specific date, but it is improbable that we will announce it because of the logistic and security aspects that have to be taken into account. What I can say is that we hope President Obama can dedicate sufficient time for his visit to El Salvador, given his saturated agenda.

Concerning your second question, I would like to insist that respecting these issues where Congress is involved cannot be done overnight, because they have to take a due process and in this process we have all to actively participate in the process, including our compatriots living in the U.S. as well as ourselves as government that seek the welfare of our nationals, but also the members of U.S. Congress who ultimately have the final decision. Here it is important to note the role played by the Salvadoran nationals living here from a first or second generation that arrived here and have good relations and great

achieve immigration benefits for all Salvadorians.

Jorge Martinez, Centro Deportivo: First, your name was mentioned as one of the possible pre-candidates to be Mayor of El Salvador and there has been much speculation about this. We would like to know if you can give us any confirmation in this respect if you have decided yet or haven't made up your mind. The second one would be about a comment that you made earlier about a peaceful government transition and the excellent relations the government has with the party. It would seem that they are trying to make it certain. I would like your comment on something that happened a week ago that a risk assessment agency in New York lowered El Salvador's rating. I would like to know if you are making declarations in this sense and your impressions on why the rating for El Salvador was lowered. Thank you.

H.Martinez: First place, when you are appointed with a responsibility you try to do it the best way you can and in the time span you were given. I was called by President Funes to hold the post as Minister of Foreign Affairs and am focused on it until the time that President Funes considers convenient. Therefore, it is my best bet at this time. I explained to you only one part of my agenda referring to the visit to the U.S. in Washington and OAS. It is such an intense agenda that it requires our full thought and energy not only in this strategic alliance but also with emerging nations such as Russia, India and other parts of the world that are constantly demanding our time. The same as with turmoil and problems that currently are happening in other parts of the world. I am fully focused on this right now as well as my energy and efforts.

Then what I mentioned in the introduction I said clearly and reiterate on the comments that most of all have been made to us by Obama Administration officials. It is not our own comments I was merely repeating to you very favorable comments that several Obama Administration officials have told us about the example process they see in El Salvador and so they have said in those exact words. The Salvadoran process is an example process and precisely one of the signs of this visit – so they say – is consolidate and show that USA is committed with this governance model that is being developed in El Salvador. As for the remaining considerations, I would only mention a concrete fact that one or two weeks ago the Treasury Minister made available to investors a series of bonds which were bought in less than a week, almost in one day, almost immediately. That is the best indicator of the stability perceived by investors in our country.

Washington Hispanic: On the third point, although in a certain way you have replied to my concern, I would like to know if you are going to place some emphasis on negotiating the change of status for the Salvadoran community that for many years has been renewing their TPS. Do you think it would be interesting to request a change of status to permanent residency? Could it be done in an isolated way give the fact that Salvadorans and a good part of Central Americans have TPS? Not to be submitted to Congress, but I understand it could be negotiated in this sense? Are you going to place emphasis on this?

H.Martinez: Yes, just as you said, TPS is more an executive decision and this alternative that you mention in your question is not only valid but also very important for our nationals. So it will be brought up in our conversations, but there is always a dialogue process, a negotiating process, and what we will do is work, insist in that result of this negotiation process is most beneficial for our nationals. That is why we have a two lane strategy because we know that the comprehensive immigration reform has more to do with Congress although it is the Executive that proposes the issue it is Congress who takes the final decision. But there are other administrative measures that are more Executive, one of them could be a more stable alternative most definite for TPS beneficiaries. There are other Executive measures that can be implemented y we trust in God that we will have the creative and support from the Obama Administration to obtain more feasible alternatives for our nationals.

EFE: Again on the issue of security, you said that President Obama's visit would be to seal the strategic alliance and I ask myself if there is a risk that Congress decrease the aid to Colombia, to the Merida Initiative which I think C.A. receives part of these funds. Why is there no insistence before Congress to maintain this aid if the security issue is key for bilateral agenda. And the other thing, you have just said that there are administrative measures respecting immigration but we have seen that during the Obama Administration there has been significant increase in arrests and deportation of illegal immigrants. What measures are you referring to and what are you going to propose Mr. Obama to stop or seek immigration help or relief for this illegal population?

H.Martinez: In the first place, when I speak about sealing the strategic alliance I am not only referring to the security issue but also to a series of issues that are included in the alliance or partnership for growth and development. In this alliance there are the five topics mentioned and in this sense we want to seal this partnership, but concretely in cooperation not only in the security issue but in other issues, we have seen specific commitments by the U.S. For example, we signed the BRIDGE Initiative with Secretary Clinton, we have requested that the country be considered for a Second Compact for Millenium Challenge Account that in the northern area of the country this first Compact has completely changed the lives of many Salvadorans. Almost two weeks ago I was with President Funes in an event where scholarships were given to young people for technical studies in tourism, in agro industry and many of them a few years ago were saying I want to finish High School in order to emigrate to the United States and are now saying I want to finish High School in order to work in the tourism area in my country, to work in medium and micro enterprises or to work in agro industrial processes. So this is an important impact of this cooperation. That is why if the security problem is one of multiple origins, we have to attack it with a multi-dimensional perspective where an essential component is to combat crime, but the other important components are investment for development that can allow us most of all to give alternatives to the young, because the young are the basic prey of criminals through blackmail, offering them easy ways to earn money, trying to seduce our young people. With this strategic alliance we want to offer alternatives to our young people. Of course, we are going to speak not only with the Obama Administration but also with members of Congress on the importance of cooperation. But as I said at the beginning we see this cooperation as

message has been well received by the Obama Administration in the sense that there needs to be a fiscal agreement in El Salvador where everyone will bet on these developments plans that consequently will bring benefit and stability for all Salvadorans.

Then, on the deportation issue, it is also an issue that within the immigration context we have been discussing with the Obama Administration. According to the latest figures I have the difference between 2009 and 2010 is not very significant. But in any case, the manner in which we have been discussing the deportation issue is looking for more guarantee, more respect for our nationals and above all marking a difference with the persons that have criminal background from those that are being removed only for not having a legal document.

For those that have criminal background, we have signed an agreement with Secretary Napolitano that we will share that information in order to keep track of them because they are criminals. But we cannot judge everyone because of this limited number of people. And one other thing that has been discussed in the Work Table with ICE and Homeland Security is that differentiation. And in this differentiation of people that do not have a legal document, a treatment with more emphasis on senior citizens, pregnant women and children, to give them a series of facilities if according to US laws they must be removed, that they be treated in a special way for these groups that we call most vulnerable. Under this perspective we are discussing these issues in our bilateral topics.

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	Date	Contact					
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Jonathan Beale	State Department Correspondent	BBC	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Roger Runnigen	White House Correspondent	Bloomberg	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Caroline Eisenberg	Immigration Correspondent	CQ Today	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Rob Margetta	Foreign Policy Correspondent	CQ Homeland Security	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Howard La Franchi	Christian Science Monitor	International Correspondent	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

FARA Contacts re: "Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit" February 7, 2011

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Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email		Daniel Dombey	Foreign Policy Correspondent	Financial Times	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email		Bob Ourlan	Foreign Policy Editor	Los Angeles Times	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email		Ken Ellingwood	Foreign Policy Correspondent	LA Times	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email		Mimi Whitefield	Foreign Policy Correspondent	The Miami Herald	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Olga Belogolova	Foreign Policy Correspondent	National Journal	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Sara Sorcher	National security and foreign policy correspondent	National Journal	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Laura Rozen	Foreign Policy Reporter	Politico	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Arshad Mohammed	Foreign Policy Reporter	Reuters	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Brian Curtis	Political Editor	The Daily Beast	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Sam Youngman	Foreign Policy Correspondent	The Hill	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Alan Gomez	Immigration Correspondent	USA Today	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Jay Solomon	Washington Reporter	Wall Street Journal	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Keith Johnson	Foreign Policy Reporter	Wall Street Journal	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Devlin Barrett	Foreign Policy Correspondent	Wall Street Journal	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

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Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Adam Graham-Silverman	State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization	State Department	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
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Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Virginia "Gini" Staab	Western Hemisphere Affairs	State Department	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Rebecca Frankel	Deputy Managing Editor, Web	ForeignPolicy.com	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Philip Ewing	Morning Defense	Politico	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

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Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Luis Alonso	Costa Rica/Nicaragua Beat	Associated Press	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Matthew Lee	State Department	Associated Press	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Edith M. Lederer	United Nations Correspondent	Associated Press	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Emily Cadei	Foreign Policy Correspondent	CQ Today	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Ken Ellingwood	Foreign Policy Correspondent	Los Angeles Times	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit

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Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Ken Dillanian	Foreign Policy Correspondent	Los Angeles Times	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit
Catherine Goode	2/7/2011	Email	Lorna Baldwin	Deputy Senior Producer - News	NewsHour with Jim Lerer	El Salvador Foreign Minister Press Briefing	Transcript of El Salvador Foreign Minister Briefing on March 2011 Obama Visit